

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing rolling elements for a rolling bearing, comprising:

placing a wire material of predetermined length in a space that is defined by at least first and second molds and has a predetermined shape;

forge-forming the wire material into a blank ball for each rolling elements, said blank ball including an outer diameter portion becoming a rolling contact face that has curvatures in an axial direction thereof and a radial direction normal to the axial direction and including at least one plane; and

removing an extra flesh from the outer diameter portion of the blank ball, to thereby produce each of the rolling elements,

wherein the blank ball thus forge-formed has a connecting portion that is located between the rolling contact face and one of the at least one plane the connecting portion having a predetermined radius of curvature.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

releasing the blank ball thus forge-formed from the space, before the removing step is carried out.

12-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

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